BENGALURU, MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 21 | Humidity 80% Light rain Sensex 82,500 | Nifty 25,149 | Gold 97,830 | Silver 1,13,111 | Dollar 85.86 | Euro 100.24 | GBP 116.07

GATHER AROUND

Is it time to retire row-based seating in schools to make way for circular arrangement? Child activists want govt to give it a shot

PAGE 2

TAXING TIME

As small traders reel under massive tax notices, Commercial Tax Dept suggests ways for unregistered businesses to mitigate blow

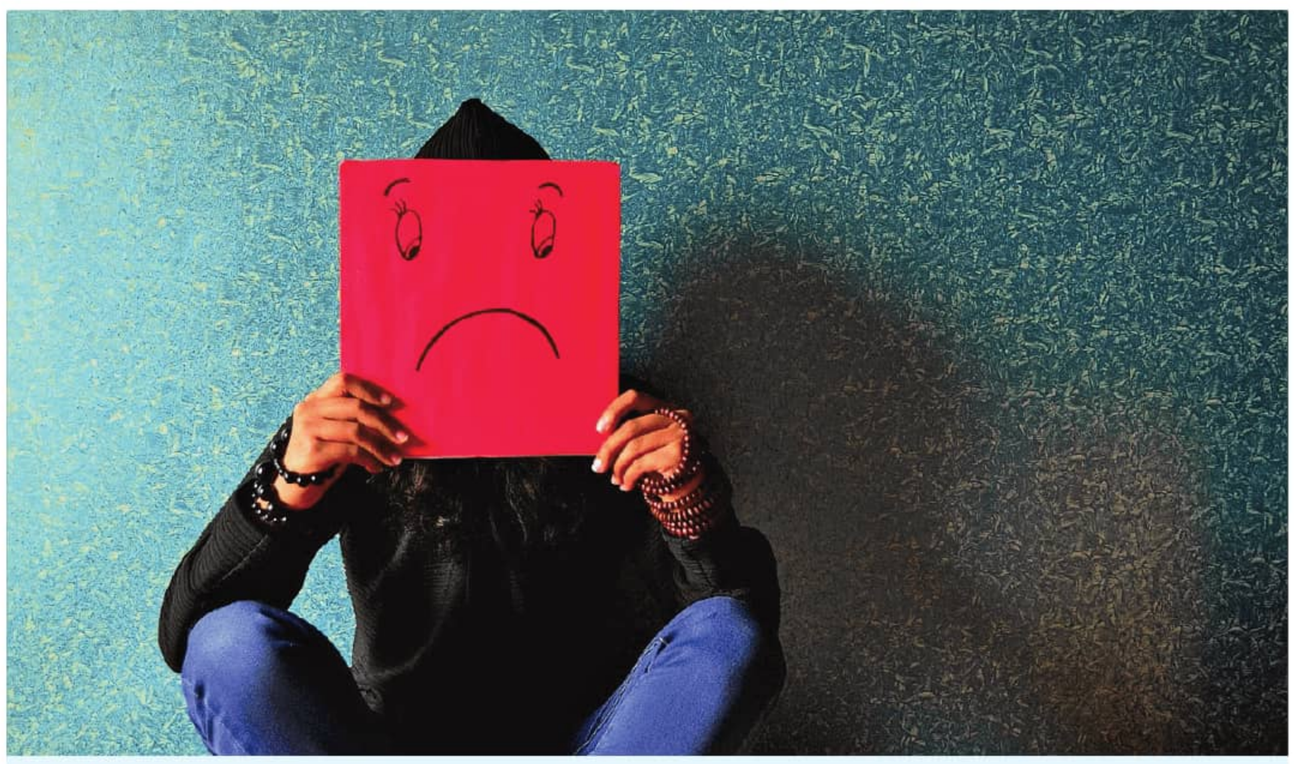
PAGE 3

70% of suicide cases in city involve men; as 765 took their lives till May this year, experts reiterate that men often suffer in silence due to stigma, cultural expectations and lack of open communication

FROM A DARK & LONELY PLACE

Suicide leading cause of death among 15-29 year olds in India

Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR



When one in every six deaths among young people in India is due to suicide, the numbers in Bengaluru are particularly alarming. As of May 31 this year, a total of 765 men have died by suicide in the city. Men continue to outnumber women in suicide cases, choosing this tragic path for various reasons.

Few days back, a 34-year-old man named Mallesh was found dead at his rented house in Vidyanagar, within the Peenya police station limits. Mallesh, who had been in a live-in relationship with Lakshmi for six years, allegedly wrote on the wall accusing Lakshmi and Naresh of being responsible for his death. He worked as a field officer in a security agency. His parents have lodged a complaint, and Peenya police have registered a case.

Compared to women, men remain disproportionately affected by this crisis. Mental health experts explain that while women may be more likely to seek emotional support, men often suffer in silence due to stigma, cultural expectations, and a lack of open communication. This emotional bottling can manifest in impulsive or planned acts of self-harm.

> **"Men in particular experience pain and lean towards unhealthy coping. Emotional struggles stemming from toxic relationships are rarely spoken about and remain taboo, especially among the youth** —Lakshmi Shashikumar, psychologist

Psychologist Lakshmi Shashikumar explains, "Among teenagers and young adults, family dysfunction is a major contributing factor to self harm and suicide. This includes emotional burden caused by family dynamics, pressure to conform, constant expectations to succeed, and the need to make decisions that reflect well on their families. Parental disputes,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Dial jailbird

More phones, more often: Mobile seizures surge inside Bengaluru's Central Prison

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara Central Prison is witnessing a steady increase in mobile phone recoveries, no longer limited to isolated or large-scale raids. In the first six months of 2025 alone, at least five separate incidents of phone seizures have been reported, nearly one every month, despite the presence of surveillance systems, signal jammers, and routine security audits.

This shift from infrequent crackdowns to regular discoveries indicates either an expanding network of contraband smuggling or a more sustained effort by prison authorities to detect breaches. What remains consistent, however, is the fact that mobile phones continue to find their way into one of the country's most secure correctional facilities often bypassing multiple levels of internal security. The pattern suggests that questions must go beyond how these devices are entering the prison, to who may be facilitating their entry from within.

Timeline of seizures in 2025

In January this year, a surprise inspection uncovered three mobile phones, two hidden on an undertrial inmate and one found abandoned in a convict barrack. In February, one of the year's larger recoveries was reported with more than 10 phones

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Crafty finds

Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath is presenting 'Bengaluru Utsava', featuring a curated exhibition and sale of exquisite art, handicrafts, handloom products, and lifestyle items from across India. **Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram; When: Until July 27**

02 Artistic escape

Sublime Galleria is presenting 'A Symphony of Colour', an art exhibition featuring exquisite works by artist Amya Chhabra. The exhibition is a celebration of colour, emotion, and imagination. **Where: Sublime Galleria, UB City; When: July 11 onwards**

03 Musical evening

Mika Singh, known for his countless iconic hit songs, is set to take the stage and mesmerise the audience with his lively music. **Where: ZOZO The Club, Sanjay Nagar; When: July 19, 7 pm**

04 Retail therapy

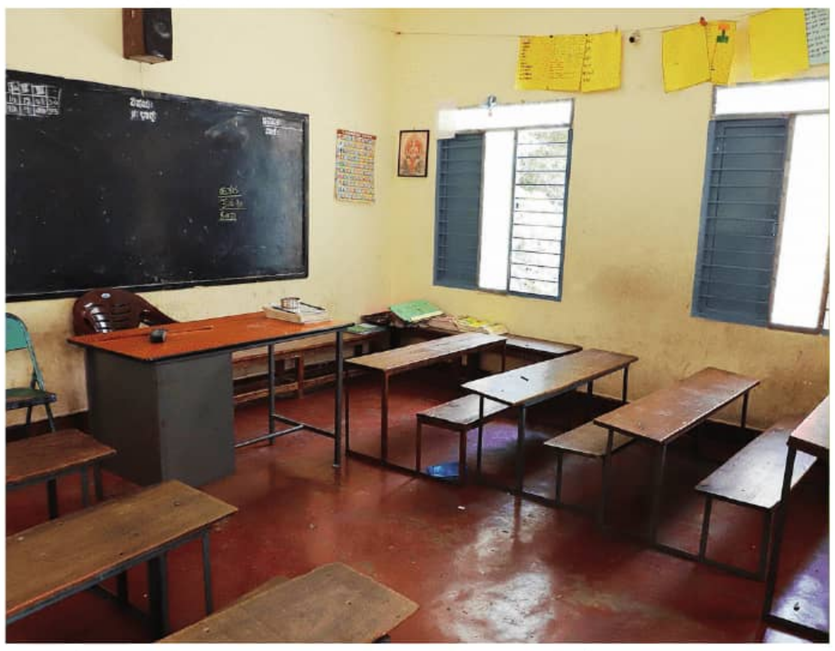
Swadeshi Art and Craft Exhibition is bringing an exclusive sale of handlooms, handicrafts, jewellery, sarees, clothing, accessories, khadi kurtas, suit pieces, and home accessories. **Where: Srinivasa Kalyana Mantapa, Jayanagar; When: July 6 to 16, 10.30 am to 9 pm**

05 Play time

Ranga Shankara is hosting the 15th edition of 'AHA! Theatre for Children Festival', featuring plays from across India, based on themes of self-discovery, courage, and imagination. Each play invites children to question, explore, and connect. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: July 15 to 19, 7.30 pm**

Push for U-shaped seating in govt schools

Shift to U-shaped seating arrangement could help ensure that teachers focus on all students and promote equality through elimination of back benches, say child rights activists



Child rights activists say the initiative holds the potential to help students focus better on lessons in the classroom

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Child rights activists have urged the state government to implement Kerala government's initiative of changing seating arrangement from traditional row-based seating to U-shaped seating in government schools to better support student learning.

Nagasimha G Rao, a child rights activist, wrote a letter to the Minister for Primary and Secondary Education Madhu Bangarappa, requesting the adoption of U-shaped seating arrangements at government schools.

Stating that classroom atmosphere plays a key role in enabling the students to learn effectively, Rao said that the introduction of U-shaped seating arrangement has helped students learn effectively. "This initiative will yield effective results in teacher-student interaction," Rao said in the letter. He highlighted that the traditional row-based seating enables the teacher to focus on the students in the first row, whereas the U-shaped seating facilitates teachers to focus on all students and aids in the promotion of equality and eliminates the stigma associated with backbenchers.

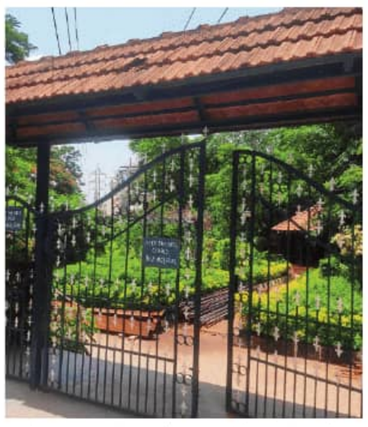
Expressing a similar opinion, Vasudeva Sharma, a child rights activist, said that U-shaped seating at classrooms will not only ensure that teachers focus on all students but also change the notion of teachers on students seated in the front row. "It will be a good initiative to provide infrastructure at the government schools. This initiative will help the teacher to focus on all students as there will be no backbenches in the classroom. I followed a similar method while conducting workshops and seminars for students and teachers," said Sharma, adding that the initiative, if implemented by the state government, could yield positive results.

Describing the U-shaped seating arrangement as a good initiative, HC Raghavendra, a child rights activist from Bellary, said the initiative holds the potential to help students focus on lessons in the classroom. "The government has to provide basic infrastructure, including benches, at the government schools. Most of the government schools have no benches as per the requirement," noted Raghavendra.

Dr Thippeswamy KT, a member of Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, said the proposal is good ideologically but not workable practically. "There is a chance of some students, who sit on the benches placed on both sides in the classroom, suffering from neck pain from focusing on the black board or teacher for 45 minutes," he highlighted, adding that the authorities have to provide the infrastructure at the government schools before implementing the U-shaped seating arrangements.

Minister seeks park timing restrictions to curb misuse

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has written to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner urging a rollback of extended public access to city parks, citing concerns over misuse. He has recommended that parks remain open only from 5 am to 11 am and 4 pm to 8 pm, stating that allowing all-day access has led to rising instances of illegal and immoral activities, including smoking, drinking, and nuisance by



miscreants. According to the minister, these activities are deterring senior citizens and families from visiting parks, especially during late evening hours.

Earlier, BBMP parks operated from 5.30 am to 10 am and 4 pm to 8 pm, with the remaining hours reserved for maintenance tasks such as cleaning, watering, and upkeep. However, a recent directive extended public hours from 5.30 am to 10 pm. Ramalinga Reddy alleged that most city parks are small and located near residential areas, causing disturbance to nearby residents. He urged the civic body to reinstate limited operating hours to ensure safety, cleanliness, and effective maintenance. **— BMB**

Rohith Vemula Bill to prevent discrimination in higher education

The Karnataka government is set to introduce a bill titled the Rohith Vemula Education and Right to Dignity (Protection from Discrimination and Harassment) Bill – 2025 in the upcoming monsoon session of the legislature. The legislation aims to curb caste, class, religion, and gender-based discrimination in all higher education institutions — including public, private, and deemed universities. In line with Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's recommendation, the bill intends to safeguard the educational rights and dignity of backward class and minority students, and will treat violations as non-bailable offences. Offenders may face imprisonment of up to one year

and a fine of Rs 10,000, while repeated offences could invite a minimum of three years' jail and a Rs 1 lakh penalty. Institutions found guilty may also lose government funding and grants.

Equitable access for all students

Sources said that the draft, currently under legal review, ensures that every eligible student receives equitable access to higher education without discrimination, and mandates that admission be strictly based on merit, reservation policy, and eligibility guidelines. Inspired by the tragic death of 26-year-old research scholar Rohith Vemula from the University of Hyderabad — a case that triggered nationwide protests against caste discrimination — the bill empowers not just the victim but also their immediate family members to file complaints. Any individual who humiliates or incites others to discriminate based on caste, religion, or gender will be held accountable. The bill is a response to growing concerns over student rights and institutional bias, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reiterating his commitment to introducing strong legal safeguards in line with the party's national stance. **— BMB**

Biker bliss Jawa, Yezdi bike lovers gathered for the 23rd International Jawa Day celebration at Shalini Ground, Jayanagar, on Sunday

Tax storm hits small traders: 'No clue how to pay'

Small traders in Bengaluru reel under massive tax notices, some over ₹1 crore; Commercial Tax Dept urges unregistered businesses to register under GST or opt for 1% Composition Scheme

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Several small traders and shopkeepers in Bengaluru have been left stunned after receiving hefty tax notices from the Commercial Tax Department. What started as a routine business year has suddenly turned into a nightmare for many, with demands ranging from lakhs to even crores.

Basavaraj, a bakery owner in Kengeri, shared his distress after receiving a tax notice of ₹67 lakh. "I run a small bakery, and my daily margin is just ₹500. I have a family to support, and now I don't know how to manage this huge tax amount," he said. In another instance, a bakery operator from Kattigenahalli reported that he received a notice for ₹33 lakh. "We just sell tea, coffee, and snacks. The total investment in my bakery is only ₹3 lakh. A week ago, I got a notice from the commercial tax department. I am completely shaken. I have no clue how I'm supposed to pay such an amount," he explained.

The cases don't end there. A vegetable and fruit vendor on Bannerghatta Road has been issued a tax notice of ₹1.3 crore, while a condiments store in Rajajinagar has received a demand for ₹64 lakh. A grocery store in the same locality has also been served a notice of ₹36 lakh. With mounting pressure and limited resources, these small business owners are finding themselves caught in a web of unexpected financial liabilities.

Tax department clarifies

The Karnataka Commercial Tax Department has issued a clarification to help the public understand the legal basis for these actions. According to the department, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Act, which came into force on July 1, 2017, mandates GST registration for any goods supplier whose total annual turnover exceeds ₹40 lakh, or for any service provider whose turnover crosses ₹20 lakh.

The department highlighted that the total turnover considered for GST registration includes both taxable and exempted goods and services. However, the tax liability applies only to the taxable items. For instance, bread is exempt from GST, while snack items sold in bakeries are taxed at 5%.

UPI transactions under scanner

An official said, "The department has relied on transaction data collected from various Unified Payments Interface (UPI) service providers between the financial years 2021–22 and 2024–25. Since most traders accept payments via multiple methods—including cash—the UPI figures represent only a part of their actual turnover. Therefore, businesses that have received more than ₹40 lakh through UPI alone are likely to have even higher total annual turnover.

Notices were served to those who exceeded the threshold limit but failed to register under GST or pay the applicable tax."

What small traders must do now

The Commercial Tax Department has advised such traders to register under GST if they haven't already. They are also required to submit accurate sales data, so that the appropriate tax can be assessed. "Small businesses with an annual turnover below ₹1.5 crore have the option to opt for the Composition Scheme, under which they need to pay just 1% tax in a simplified manner. The department has encouraged small business owners to make use of this benefit.

Car crashes, three dead

Three people, including a father and son, lost their lives in an accident on the Bengaluru–Mysuru Expressway early Saturday morning. The incident occurred near Jayapura Gate when the car they were travelling in crashed into a roadside divider after the driver reportedly lost control.

The deceased have been identified as Muthuraj (28), his father Tamanna Gowda (56), both residents of Chikkanayakanahalli, and the car's driver, Sachin (27), originally from Hassan and residing in Bengaluru. As per the police, the group was returning from a program in Maduvinkarai village when the accident took place.

The car was mangled beyond recognition due to the force of the crash. All three died on the spot. A fourth passenger sustained serious injuries and is currently undergoing treatment at a local hospital.

Drug peddlers nabbed at pubs

Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) and the Central Crime Branch (CCB) Anti-Narcotics Wing conducted raids at two upscale pubs in Bengaluru and arrested two foreign nationals allegedly involved in drug peddling.

Acting on intelligence inputs about the supply of narcotics at luxury techno parties, officials raided Mirage on MG Road and a Sunburn-themed event in Koramangala late Saturday night. The two accused, both foreign nationals working as DJs, were apprehended while operating within the venues.

Investigators revealed that the duo was directly sourcing and distributing drugs to partygoers inside the pubs, and were also linked to the supply of narcotics at private parties. One of the arrested individuals is reportedly of Syrian origin, while another is believed to be a Nigerian national.

SMART BAZAAR
SMART BAZAAR
WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY
CELEBRATING YOUR WINS
Celebrate The Timeless Taste Of Your
Mother's Recipes
Register Now for the cooking contest
SCAN TO REGISTER
Cook & Bring your favourite dish that your mother made for you to SMART Bazaar on 16th July at 3 PM
Present the dish to the judges & get a chance to enter into the finale on the same day.
Winners to get Gift Voucher worth
₹10,000.
Come to SMART Bazaar Every Wednesday.
In Association with VK VIJAY KARNATAKA
GAMES
YOUR PLATFORM
NETWORKING
HAPPINESS MANTRA
BEAUTY & HEALTH
MONEY MATTERS
Contest on 16th July. Only at
Royal Meenakshi Mall • Katreguppe Road, Banashankari.
SMART BAZAAR
PARTICIPANTS TO GET ONLY VEG COOKED DISHES. Customer who participate in the Round 1 of cooking competition, 3 finalists would proceed to Round 2. Cooking competition will be held at Stores on 16th July, 2025 during the working hours of the Stores. Eligible Customers will participate in Round 1. Customers will be required to cook their mothers favorite recipe at home and bring it to the store for evaluation. A judge present at the venue will evaluate the dishes based on the criteria of taste, presentation, uniqueness, and innovation. Reliance being the administrator of this cooking competition reserve their right to amend/ withdraw/ discontinue/cancel and modify the Prize/Promotion scheme and its terms and conditions without any prior notice and assigning any reasons whatsoever to the Participant under this cooking competition. This acceptance of the terms and conditions shall be deemed to have been given at Mumbai, Maharashtra, India and the courts in Mumbai alone will have exclusive jurisdiction to entertain any proceedings in any way relating to or concerning these terms and conditions or any rights, duties, obligations or liabilities arising there under to the exclusion of all other courts in India. T & C Apply.

Delayed resolution prompts complaint against K-RERA

Home buyer seeks Human Rights Commission's intervention after real estate authority fails to provide timely judgement, claims delay affects his fundamental right to justice

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Despite its mission to protect home buyers through transparency, accountability, and efficiency in property transactions, the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA) has come under scrutiny. While many home buyers have expressed dissatisfaction with K-RERA's approach, raising concerns about its style of functioning, one aggrieved home buyer has filed a complaint against K-RERA with the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission (KSHRC).

Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, a resident of Sobha Arena Apartment, Thalaghattapura, filed the complaint with KSHRC due to K-RERA's alleged delay in releasing the order pertaining to a case filed by the complainant regarding deficiencies found in the Sobha Arena Project.

Delays in delivery of judgments by the K-RERA continue to disgruntle home buyers seeking resolution (File photo)

"Karnataka RERA Act is actively flouted by corrupt developers using it as a tool to rob and advertise Karnataka RERA-certified projects, luring home buyers into fraudulent schemes that were never meant to be completed
– Errol Noronha, President, Ozone Urbana Buyers Welfare Association

In his complaint, Padmanabhachar stated that he was one of the home buyers who purchased a property in the Sobha Arena Apartments. "I found a lot of deficiency in services and I registered a complaint before the RERA in August 2023, with complaint no 01220/2023. The RERA has adjudicated the matter and posted for orders on April 9, 2025. It is more than 3 months since the case was posted for orders but still the RERA has not released the orders," the complaint lodged with the KSHRC read.

Padmabhachar noted that there was a significant delay in the release of the orders, impacting his fundamental right of getting justice. "Quasi Judicial Authority is expected to dispose of the case much faster and release the orders to the public. But, the K-RERA has not released the orders/judgments even after three months," the complaint read.

There have been occasions where K-RERA has penalised builders for not handing over flats to home buyers on time. The authority has also increased the quantum of penalty for the benefit of aggrieved home buyers. Yet, the delays in delivery of judgments by the K-RERA continues to disgruntle home buyers seeking resolution.

Errol Noronha, President of Ozone Urbana Buyers Welfare Association, has withdrawn a case from K-RERA. "It takes a minimum of 1 year or more to obtain a so-called Karnataka RERA Order, which has no value and is not implementable, resulting in high costs for advocates with no tangible results," he said. He highlighted that often developers' representatives fail to attend hearings, leading to the postponement of cases without justification, which increases petitioners' costs and results in financial losses from legal battles. "Karnataka RERA Act is actively flouted by corrupt developers using it as a tool to rob and advertise Karnataka RERA-certified projects, luring home buyers into fraudulent schemes that were never meant to be completed. In turn, many financial institutions also team up with corrupt developers to rob innocent home buyers," he added.

United for a better tomorrow

Children aged 2 to 6 years performed a skit and dance during the walkathon organised by Resident Welfare Associations of Wards 81 and 87, LBS Nagar

In a spirited bid to promote civic awareness and cleanliness, the Resident Welfare Associations of Wards 81 and 87, LBS Nagar, organised a 5K run and 3K walkathon on Sunday morning. The event, flagged off at 7 am, witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 300 residents, including senior citizens, youth, and children.

Held under the banner 'Clean LBS – Our Shared Responsibility', the event aimed to draw attention to pressing civic issues such as garbage mismanagement, illegal parking, encroachment of public spaces, animal waste, laying of roads, and the need for stronger community consciousness. Two local schools, Little Giggles Preschool and Vriskham Montessori, lent their support to the cause. Children aged 2 to 6 years performed a skit and dance that highlighted key issues like plastic pollution and waste segregation. Their performance served as a reminder of the power of early education in civic responsibility.

KR Puram MLA Byrathi Basavaraj, who was the chief guest at the event, acknowledged the residents' concerns and promised concrete action. He assured increased patrolling by BBMP marshals, better garbage pick-up coordination, installation of CCTV cameras, enhanced street lighting near Vibhutipura Park, and efforts towards road resurfacing. Basavaraj emphasised the importance of resident involvement and urged that complaints be submitted through official public portals, as these would serve as documented evidence to prompt necessary action. The event concluded with a strong sense of solidarity and renewed community spirit. It marked not just a healthy start to the day but a hopeful beginning toward long-term civic transformation.

'Run for Blue'

Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield, witnessed an inspiring morning of energy, unity, and environmental action as it hosted the 'Run for Blue' community marathon on Sunday. Drawing over 2800 participants from across the city, the event successfully blended the spirit of fitness with a powerful message — 'Every drop counts, every step matters'.

Organised in association with TRANA, the event featured 3K, 5K, and 10K run categories, welcoming individuals of all age groups and fitness levels. The marathon route coursed through Whitefield Main Road, turning every kilometre into a pledge for sustainable water use and heightened awareness around Bengaluru's growing water crisis.

The 'Run for Blue' community marathon witnessed participation from over 2800 individuals from across the city

The event flagged off at 6 am from Phoenix Marketcity, transforming the venue into a vibrant hub of community action. Participants, from early-morning joggers to seasoned marathoners, ran with enthusiasm and commitment, unified by a shared goal — to raise awareness about the critical issue of water scarcity and encourage mindful usage. More than a marathon, the event stood as a symbol of how collective effort and simple actions can spark meaningful change. — BMB

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Garbage pile-up

VV Puram

Residents of KR Sindhia Road, Vishweshwarapura, are facing serious civic neglect. Piles of garbage lie unattended across the road, and multiple scrap vehicles have been left abandoned, further choking the already congested area.

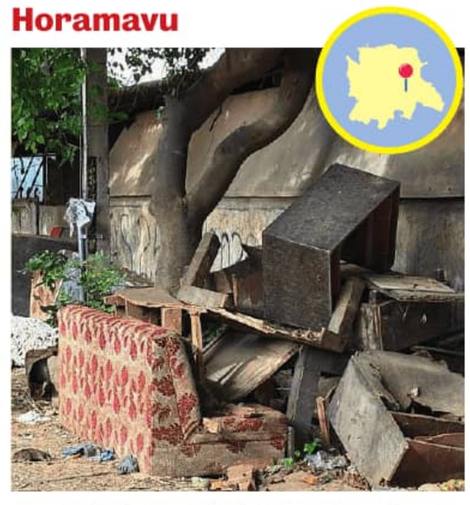
Damaged road

Shivajinagar

For over two weeks, the road near Muthyalamma Temple in Shivajinagar (behind BBMP Nursery Corporation School, B Cooks Road, Thimmaiah Cross) has remained in a severely damaged state. Stagnant water has accumulated, creating a serious mosquito breeding ground and posing a public health risk.

Waste woes

Horamavu



On Sri Sai Varshini Vilas Road in Banjara Layout, Kalkere, Horamavu Agara, residents report that some property owners are dumping solid waste on the streets. This negligence is attracting pests and reptiles, endangering the health and safety of everyone in the neighbourhood.

Power usage dips with monsoon rains

Widespread rains bring down Karnataka's daily power demand by nearly 7,800 MW, easing pressure on state grid

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Following widespread and consistent rainfall across the state, Karnataka has seen a substantial dip in its daily power demand. Once soaring to record levels during the scorching summer, the demand has now settled around 11,000 megawatts (MW) as of July. Thanks to the good rains since the start of the monsoon season, temperatures have dropped, leading to reduced usage of electricity in both domestic and agricultural sectors. Compared to April and May—when power consumption peaked—the current demand is down by nearly 7,777 MW.

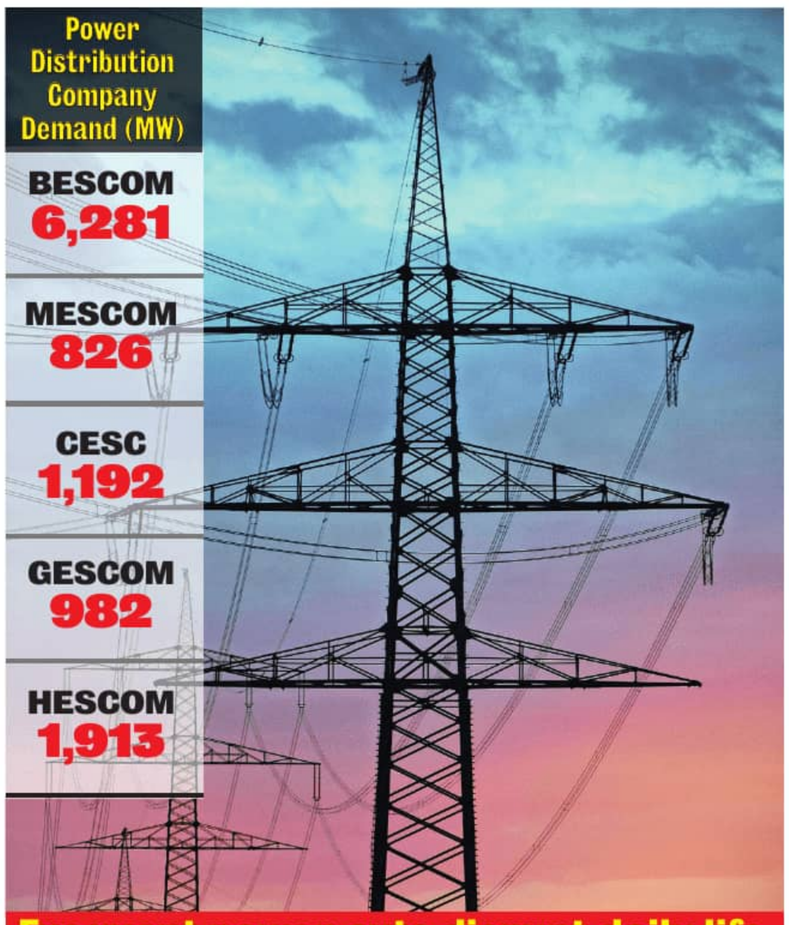
Summer saw record-breaking demand

Sources in KPCL (Karnataka Power Corporation Limited) said that the extreme heat during April and May had pushed electricity consumption to unprecedented levels. On multiple occasions, the state's daily demand had crossed the 19,000 MW mark, forcing the energy department to procure additional power from external sources. This was coupled with low water storage in major reservoirs, affecting hydroelectric power generation and further straining the system. Officials from the energy department noted that such a high power demand had never been recorded in the state's history.

Pump sets switched off due to rain

An official said that there are around 38 lakh (3.8 million) agricultural pump sets in the state, accounting for approximately 36% of total electricity consumption. During summer, these pump sets work relentlessly to meet irrigation needs, often consuming more power than domestic or industrial sectors. However, due to current rains, farmers have reduced pump usage significantly. With the sowing season beginning slowly and adequate soil moisture from rainfall, the agricultural sector is currently showing minimal demand for electricity.

"Today, Karnataka's daily power demand is around 11,223 MW," said a senior official from the energy department. "As farmers are not using pump sets due to good rainfall, consumption has dropped. Domestic usage has also come down. With more rain forecast in the coming days, we expect demand to dip further," the official said.



Frequent power cuts disrupt daily life

Residents of the Dasarahalli zone are reeling under frequent and unannounced power cuts, which have disrupted daily routines and raised serious concerns about civic planning and infrastructure readiness. Despite repeated complaints, there seems to be little relief in sight.
"Power cuts have become a daily affair. We face intermittent outages throughout the day," said Suma R, a resident. The problem has worsened over the past week, with some areas experiencing power cuts multiple times a day. Local shopkeepers report losses due to interrupted operations. "Customers walk away when we can't run the billing machines. My refrigerator has already broken down due to the erratic supply," said Ravi Kumar, who runs a provision store in T Dasarahalli. However, residents demand quicker action and proper scheduling. "We deserve timely updates, not surprise blackouts," said resident activist Manjunath Gowda.

> **"As farmers are not using pump sets due to good rainfall, consumption has dropped. With more rain forecast in coming days, we expect demand to dip further** –Official

Power bought from other states now being returned

To manage the summer power crisis, the Karnataka Energy Department had procured large amounts of electricity from other states. Under exchange arrangements, the state sourced 200 to 531 MW per day from Punjab, and 100 to 1,400 MW per day from Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, 310 MW was obtained from NTPC in Kudgi, and under the power security policy, 1,000 MW extra was purchased monthly from other states.

Cops join wildlife crime probe

Thirteen days after a major poaching bust, Forest Department officials have now sought police assistance to trace the source of weapons used in the illegal hunting of deer in Bannerghatta and Kolar Forest ranges.

The department arrested 31-year-old private driver Pratap on June 29 and seized two cars, a bike, two firearms, and large quantities of deer meat near the Bannerghatta-NICE Road junction. Acting on his inputs, officials raided a shed in CK Palya and recovered the carcasses of nine deer, a wild boar, 74 kg of stored meat, 10 live cartridges, and two guns, one single-barrel and one double-barrel.

The raid was carried out on the directions of Forest Minister Ishwar Khandre, after specific alerts about a gang illegally hunting and selling venison in the region.

While Pratap was caught red-handed, his accomplices, identified as Bheemappa (shed owner), Balaraju and Ramesh, are on the run. A case has been registered under the Wildlife Protection Act.

However, with the forest department not empowered to investigate under the Arms Act, the seized weapons and case file have now been handed over to Bannerghatta police. Officials suspect one of the weapons to be foreign-made and have asked police to trace its origin.

Pratap, who was remanded to judicial custody, is currently out on bail. Police said he will be summoned again for questioning.

Lacking Arms Act powers, Forest dept handed case to Bannerghatta police

EAST POINT GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS BANGALORE
EDUCATION + HUMANITY
Affiliations, Approvals & Accreditations
ADMISSIONS OPEN 2025 -26
66+ PROGRAMS OFFERED
35000+ ALUMNI ACROSS THE GLOBE
10000+ STUDENT COMMUNITY
100% PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE
COURSES OFFERED
HEALTH SCIENCES
› MBBS › MS › MD
› B.Sc. Cardiac Care › B.Sc. AT & OTT
› B.Sc. Medical Imaging › B.Sc. Perfusion
› B.Sc. Medical Laboratory
› B.Sc. Emergency & Trauma Care
› BOT - Bachelor of Occupational Therapy
› D.Pharm › B.Pharm
› M.Pharm › Pharm.D
› B.Sc. Nursing › GNM
› BPT › MPT
ENGINEERING
› CSE › CSE (DS) › CSE (AI & ML)
› CSE (IoT, Cyber Security with BT)
› ISE › ECE › Civil › M.Tech
HIGHER EDUCATION
› BBA (Prof.) › BBA (Aviation Mgt.)
› BCA (Prof.) › B.Com (Prof.)
› MBA (Prof.) › MCA (Prof.) › M.Com
DOCTORAL COURSES - PhD
› CSE › ECE › MECH › CIVIL
› MATHEMATICS › CHEMISTRY
Quality Training & Placements
Corporate Connectivity
Value Added Programs
Cultural and Sports
Green Campus
Diverse Academic Offerings
Beyond Curriculum
Holistic Development
Student Mentoring
Research & Innovation
RANKINGS AND RECOGNITIONS
THE TIMES OF INDIA RANKING SURVEY 2025
19th SOUTH INDIA Top Region Wise Ranking
38th ALL INDIA Top Private Engineering Institute
40th ALL INDIA Top Engineering Institute
57th ALL INDIA Top Private Placement Institute
THE WEEK INDIA'S BEST COLLEGES 2025
11th BANGALORE Best Private Engineering College
18th KARNATAKA Best Private Engineering College
50th SOUTH INDIA Best Private Engineering College
78th ALL INDIA Best Private Engineering College
TIMES BUSINESS AWARDS 2023 for "EXCELLENCE IN QUALITY EDUCATION"
PLACEMENTS @ EAST POINT
300+ Recruitment Partners
25 LPA Highest Salary Offered
7.5 LPA Average Salary Offered
97% Placement Achieved
East Point Campus: Jnanaprabha,Virgo Nagar Post, Bidarahalli, Off Old Madras Road, Bengaluru - 560049, Karnataka, India.
Reach Us At: +91 720 422 9999
admissions@eastpoint.ac.in www.eastpoint.ac.in
"SCAN TO APPLY"

BBMP defends ₹2.88-cr plan to feed stray dogs

Civic body clarifies meals are species-appropriate, not 'biryani', aiming to curb aggression, improve health, and ensure legal compliance and accountability

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has issued a clarification defending its recent initiative to provide nutritionally balanced meals to selected stray dogs in the city and firmly denied claims that it is serving "biryani" to them.

This comes in the wake of widespread discussions on social media and criticism over what some described as a "lavish" dog-feeding scheme. The controversy stems from a civic tender, with allegations that the BBMP is overspending on feeding stray dogs.

Clarifying its stance, BBMP's Special Commissioner (Animal Husbandry) said the meals include a simple mix of boiled chicken, rice, and vegetables formulated under veterinary guidance. "Dogs are carnivorous animals and require protein in their diet. The tender clearly lists the ingredients but there is absolutely no mention of 'biryani'," he stated.

The civic body emphasised that this is not just a welfare gesture, but a legal obligation under the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, issued by the Government of India. These rules require municipal bodies to ensure humane care and control of stray dog populations.

Feeding program targets 4,000 vulnerable dogs out of 2.7 lakh strays across Bengaluru.

BBMP noted that the current plan is an improved version of a smaller-scale feeding initiative conducted last year. It has now been expanded and formalised through a structured tender to ensure transparency and efficiency.

Approximately 4,000 stray dogs out of an estimated 2.7 lakh in Bengaluru have been selected for the programme, based on their critical need for food. Each BBMP zone will have 100 designated feeding points. These locations will be supervised by Assistant Directors of the respective zones to maintain hygiene and track implementation.

One of the key goals of the initiative is to reduce aggressive behaviour among stray dogs, which often form packs when food is scarce. "Feeding them in fixed locations helps prevent territorial aggression and also supports vaccination and sterilisation efforts," the civic body said.

BBMP also framed the initiative as part of a broader public health strategy. By improving the overall health of stray dogs and ensuring they are vaccinated and sterilised, the programme aims to reduce the risk of zoonotic diseases. Mass vaccination and ABC drives will continue alongside the feeding.

> **Food for stray dogs includes boiled chicken, rice, and vegetables, formulated as per expert veterinary advice**
>
> –BBMP's Special Commissioner (Animal Husbandry)

The project is being implemented at a cost of ₹2.88 crore. Meals will be served once daily for 365 days. The cost per dog per day is ₹19, excluding taxes with ₹11 for food and ₹8 for transport and sanitation. BBMP clarified that these costs are part of an earlier approved proposal and not a revised or new expense.

Responding to suggestions that the dogs be relocated or sheltered, BBMP reiterated that such actions are prohibited under Indian law. According to the Animal Welfare Board of India, urban stray dogs must be managed through sterilisation, vaccination, and designated feeding not through relocation or confinement. In areas not covered by the civic programme, feeding will continue through approved animal welfare volunteers.

The civic body assured that the programme will be regularly monitored, with checks on food quality and service efficiency.

Nearly one incident of phone seizure at Central Prison each month

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

seized from high-security barracks. Jail officials hinted at internal collusion.

In May, during a late-night raid, Bengaluru South-East Division police recovered one phone, a charger, ₹16,000 in cash, and an electric stove. FIRs were filed under the Prisons Act and IPC sections related to criminal conspiracy.

And the latest arrests were that of a psychiatrist, a police constable, and an accomplice by The National Investigation Agency (NIA), in July, for allegedly supplying mobile phones to an inmate with known terror links. While this was not a routine seizure, the case revealed a sophisticated smuggling network operating within the prison, enabling terror-linked communication.

The phones were reportedly used to facilitate communication with external handlers, exposing serious vulnerabilities in internal oversight. These arrests lend weight to long-standing suspicions that some prison employees may be aiding smuggling operations, a breach of duty with grave implications for national security and prison integrity.

While jammers and surveillance cameras are in place, inmates reportedly exploit "dark zones" inside the facility, using internet dongles and hidden SIM cards to stay connected. Several phones have been found hidden inside washroom panels and even in food containers.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Why are you panicking?

Amid renewed chatter over a leadership change in Karnataka, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday made it clear he's not biting the bait.

"Why are you panicking when we are not?" Shivakumar shot back at reporters at the Bengaluru airport, brushing off questions about a possible rotational chief ministership. With Chief Minister Siddaramaiah asserting he'll complete his full five-year term, Shivakumar said there was no point in repeating answers already given.

"The CM has spoken. What more is left to say?" he remarked, refusing to be drawn into speculation. Both leaders were recently in Delhi to meet the Congress high command, triggering a fresh wave of conjecture about power-sharing deals. But Shivakumar insisted there were "no political discussions" during the visit."We only discussed appointments to boards and corporations. Everything else is just noise," he said.

When asked about the supposed groundswell of support for him within the party, the Vokkaliga strongman offered a cryptic smile: "Let it be. Everyone has aspirations including you."

Who are the poor in the state now?

"There has been no revolution in Karnataka. Uprooting the poor itself has been the biggest revolution. Now tell me, who are the poor?" questioned Law Minister HK Patil. Responding to reporters who asked about

Cooperative Minister KN Rajanna's earlier statement that a revolution would happen in September, he said, "Isn't it a revolution to ensure that every household earns at least five thousand rupees? Similarly, another scheme for the welfare of the people may also come."

Speak up everywhere, not just here: MB Patil

Industries Minister MB Patil has thrown a cheeky challenge at actor-activist Prakash Raj: if you're protesting land acquisition in Karnataka, why stay silent about Andhra and Tamil Nadu?

Referring to the proposed Defence and Aerospace Park in Devanahalli, Patil urged the actor to extend his activism to states like Andhra Pradesh, where land has allegedly been handed over to tech giants like Infosys and TCS at just 99 paise per acre.

"No hard feelings," Patil clarified. "I have always worked in farmers' interests even Bayyareddy, a true farmer leader, recognised that during my irrigation days. Critics should remember that before pointing fingers."

Missed a billion-dollar pitch

Karnataka IT Minister Priyank Kharge took a cheeky dig at the Centre, saying the state "missed out on major investments" because he wasn't allowed to attend crucial meetings in the US despite seeking permission a month in advance.

"We landed ₹7,200 crore and 9,700 jobs, but it could've been double or triple that if I'd gone," Kharge quipped, comparing it to a previous US trip that fetched ₹31,000 crore. Now that the Ministry has taken a U-turn and granted clearance after the expo dates have flown by—Kharge is left wondering: "Do you think World Trade shows wait for us?"

Name challenge

What's in a name? Apparently, a lot!

With Karnataka on a renaming spree—from Ramanagara to Bengaluru South, and Bengaluru Rural turning into Bengaluru North—the latest shoutout comes from the coast.

The Tulupara Horata Samiti now wants Dakshina Kannada rechristened as Mangaluru district, claiming it better captures the cultural and linguistic essence of the region.

"We don't speak 'Dakshina,' we speak Tulu—and we live in Mangaluru, not some colonial label," quipped Samiti leader Dayananda Kathalsar, who plans to take this 'name game' to CM Siddaramaiah's desk soon.

Don't twist my words!

"I may have said a few things in jest, but please don't paint my comments in a negative light," said Basavaraj Rayareddy, Economic Advisor to the Chief Minister. Speaking to journalists, Rayareddy clarified, "Sometimes I speak casually or jokingly if that's misunderstood and written negatively, what can I do? But let's be clear…"

He added that rural roads will be a priority in the coming days and that the government still has three years left in power with Siddaramaiah continuing as CM.

"No one should have any doubts about that," he asserted.

Rayareddy further clarified that there's no shortage of funds for development works and that guarantee schemes will not be stopped under any circumstances.

–Sridhar Vivan

"Our Government is leaving no stone unturned to build next-generation infrastructure to ensure better mobility, connectivity, productivity, sustainability and safety."

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Dedication to the Nation and Foundation Stone Laying of various Projects

DEDICATION TO THE NATION

Major Bridge across Sharavathi Backwaters between Ambargodu and Kalasavalli of NH-369E
Length : 6 Km I Cost : ₹ 472 Cr.

2/4 lane + PS of Bidar-Humnabad stretch of NH 50 I Length : 47 Km I Cost : ₹ 345 Cr.

2 lane + PS from Bhanapur-Gaddanakeri Stretch on NH 367 I Length : 25 Km I Cost : ₹ 173 Cr.

4 lane ROB & 2 lane Major Bridge in Kalburgi - Yadgiri Stretch of NH-150 I Length : 3 Km I Cost : ₹ 65 Cr.

7 Minor Bridges from Mani - Sampaji on NH 275 I Length : 3 Km I Cost : ₹ 52 Cr.

Permanent restoration work in Shiradi Ghat of NH-75 I Cost : ₹ 41 Cr.

FOUNDATION STONE LAYING

Additional Works to ensure Road Safety for 6-lane Bangalore-Mysore Access-controlled section of NH-275 I Length : 2 Km I ₹ 712 Cr.

Construction of Retaining wall from Sampaje to Kushalnagara on NH-275 I Length : 2 Km I Cost : ₹ 94 Cr.

ROB at Wadi on NH 150 I Cost : ₹ 88 Cr.

BENEFITS OF PROJECTS

Sharavathi Bridge to provide better connectivity to Malnad region and Coastal region, pilgrimage places like Kolluru & Sigandur

Widening of Bidar-Humnabad section reduces the travel time between Kalburgi and Bidar districts

ROB at Shahabad and bridge on kagina river on NH 50 provide uninterrupted traffic movement between Kalburgi and Raichur

Restoration work in Shiradi Ghat provides safe and uninterrupted traffic movement during rainy season between Mangaluru and Bengaluru

Road Safety works on Bangalore- Mysore expressway will enhance fast, safe and efficient travel between Karnataka & Kerala, reducing travel time and fuel consumption.

2.00 PM, Monday, 14th July 2025 I Nehru Field, Sagara Town, Sagara Taluk, Shivamogga

Presided By
Siddaramaiah
Chief Minister of Karnataka

By
Nitin Gadkari
Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India

Guest of Honour

H. D. Devegowda
Former Prime Minister of India
Member of Rajya Sabha

Dr. Mallikarjun Kharge
Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha & MP (RS)

Pralhad Joshi
Minister of Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution

H. D. Kumarswamy
Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises

B. S. Yediyurappa
Former Chief Minister Govt of Karnataka

V. Somanna
Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Jalashakthi

Km. Shobha Karandlaje
Minister of State in Ministry of Labour and Employement and Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises

D. K. Shivakumar
Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka
Minister of Major Irrigation

Basavaraj Horatti
Speaker of Karnataka legislative Council

U. T. Khader
Speaker of Karnataka Legislative Assembly

Satish Jarkiholi
Minister of Public Works Department

Dinesh Gundu Rao
Minister of Health and Family Welfare and District Incharge Minister, Dakshina Kannada

K. N. Rajanna
Minister of Co-operation and District Incharge Minister, Hassan

Eshwar Khandre
Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment Dist incharge Min Bidar Karnataka

Sharan Prakash Patil
Minister of Medical Education & Skill Development Karnataka

Priyank M. Kharge
Min of Rural Development and Panchayatraj and ITBT and Dist incharge min Kalaburagi

Rahim Khan
Minister For Municipal Administration and Hajj

N. S. Boseraju
Minister for Minor irrigation Science and Tecnology

S Madhu Bangarappa
Minister for School Education and Literacy and Shivamogga District In-charge Minister, Govt of Karnataka

K. M. Shivalinge Gowda
Chairman of Karnataka Housing Board

Basavaraj Rayareddy
Economic Advisor of CM Govt. of Karnataka

B. K. Sangameshwara
Chairman, Karnataka Rural Infrastructure Development Limited (KRIDL), Govt of Karnataka.

Belur Gopalkrishna
MLA Sagara Chairman, Karnataka Forest Industries Corporation Ltd.

Kagodu Thimappa
Former speaker, Karnataka

Members of Parliament

B.Y. Raghavendra | **Shreyas M Patel** | **Captain Brijesh Chowta** | **D. Veerendra Heggade** | **Sagar E. Khandre** | **Radhakrishna Doddamani** | **Basavaraj S Bommai**
K. Rajashekar Basavaraj Hitnal | **Narayanasa K. Bhandage** | **Yadhuveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Odeyar** | **Ajay Makan** | **Dr. C. N. Manjunath**

CBC 37107/15/0007/2526

सड़कें ही नहीं, राष्ट्र का निर्माण भी

FOR LIVE STREAMING : www.facebook.com/nitingadkary | https://twitter.com/nitin_gadkari | www.youtube.com/c/NitinGadkariOfficial

'Time to reduce stigma around asking for help'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

peer pressure, loneliness, genetic predisposition to mental health issues, work stress, bullying, body shaming, sexual abuse, and domestic violence are also common triggers, affecting both men and women."

She said that she has seen in her recent observations that coping mechanisms are evolving. "Men in particular experience pain and lean towards unhealthy coping. Emotional struggles stemming from toxic relationships are rarely spoken about and remain taboo, especially among the youth. As a result, many suffer in silence, feeling isolated and without support," she said.

Speaking on the topic of vulnerability to suicidal behaviour, Shashikumar explains that it is influenced by a mix of factors, including gender. She notes that self harming tendencies among youth are closely tied to gender-based disadvantages, with young girls being particularly at risk, especially those who face domestic violence, physical harm, or sexual abuse.

A recent case of a 19-year-old law student from Bengaluru, miraculously surviving a suicide attempt after jumping into the Cauvery river near Hangarahalli in Srirangapatna stands out. Swept nearly 5 km downstream, she got trapped in a tree and spent the night clinging to it. Her cries for help were heard by farmers the next morning, who alerted the police. A rescue team led by Arakere sub-inspector N Vinod Kumar safely rescued her. She was admitted to Srirangapatna hospital. The reason for her suicide attempt remains unknown. Another significant factor is substance abuse. Many young individuals struggle with conflicting influences: Parents cautioning them against drug use, while peers often pressure them to try it. This internal conflict, when combined with emotional distress or a desire to escape reality, can lead to harmful patterns of substance dependence.

If you or anyone you know is having suicidal thoughts or in need of emotional support, call suicide prevention helplines: Tele-Manas helpline: 14416 or 1800-891-4416, SAHAI Helpline: 080-25497777.

Leading cause of death

A recent study reveals that suicide is the leading cause of death among individuals aged 15 to 29 years in India. Reflecting this trend, Bengaluru has reported alarming suicide statistics between 2023 and 2025 (up to May 31, 2025), with a stark gender disparity. In 2023, the city saw 2,359 suicides 1,699 men and 660 women. The number slightly dipped in 2024 to 2,394, and in just the first five months of 2025, 1,067 cases were already recorded.

The data is alarming, especially among men, who consistently represent over 70% of suicides each year.

Shashikumar had a word of caution. "The numbers should serve as a wake-up call to improve mental health outreach and reduce the stigma around asking for help."

Your Connect

real estate

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

BRIGADE Road, Bangalore 3700 sft commercial premises 2nd floor available for sale/renting. Kindly contact Bharti 7798365986.

Bennett & Coleman THE TIMES OF INDIA

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. The Times of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of the products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and the owners of The Times of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

GALLERIA

jobs

SITUATION VACANT

MARKETING, ADVERTISING & SALES

MARKETING

Bangalore (Jayanagar / Koramangala)

Urgently required for a 150year old trusted company New office. Team Leaders, Dev.Officers, Life planners, Financial Advisors, Supervisors. Interview on 17th July.

7795883094
6364563490

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shivashankarappa Bhoga, S/o Late Shivashankarappa, C/o Ramachandraiah, Opposite KIADB office, Industrial Area, Hirehalli, Tumkur, Karnataka-572101 have changed my name to Bhoga Nanjunda for all purposes

I, Karunakara Hegde Moodukodche Bettu R/o No.149, 1st Flr, 6th main, Woc Rd, 2nd stage, M L Puram, Bengaluru 560086 have changed my name to Karunakar Hegde Affidavit Dt.12/07/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Menat Rajesh Khimjibhai S/O, Khimjibhai Menat R/o Flat No.301, D3, Old No.52, New No.12 And 13, Moti Mahal App, Halasuru, Hal Ii Stage, Hal Ii Stage, Bangaluru, Karnataka - 560008 have changed my name to Rajesh Khimji Menat.

I, Rashmi D/O, Narayana Bhat R/o No. 6&7, Sbm Colony, 2nd Main,3rd Cross, Chunchagha - tta, Konanakunte, Bangalore-560062, Ka, India have changed my name to Rashmi Dhruva Aithal for all purposes.

I, Suwasita, wife of Vivek Kumar, residing at E-505, Aakruti Amity, Ananthnagar Phase-2, Huskur Gate, E-City Post, Bengaluru, PIN: 560100, Karnataka, India, have changed my name to Suwasita Prasad. Hereafter, I shall be known as Suwasita Prasad for all purposes.

I, Arya Gupta s/o K M Madhu R/o Madhu Nilaya, KH Road, Madhugiri, Tumakuru 572132 present camp Bengaluru have changed my name to Kasimsetty Madhu Arya Gupta, Affidavit Dt.11/07/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Shankar Raman Iyer residing in Bengaluru have changed my son's name from Krishna to Krishna Shankar as per affidavit by notary RegNo:10191

I, Deepika Hegde w/o Sudhir Shetty R/o TF304,KL Ring view Apt,Chowdeshwari Nagar,Lagg -ere Bengaluru 560058 have changed my name to Deepika Shetty Affidavit Dt.11/07/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Prativa Biswas W/o Jay Bhattacharjee , R/o Flat124, Block D5 kendriya Vihar, Yelahanka, B'lore 560064 have changed my name from Prativa Biswas to Prativa Bhattacharjee for all purposes.

TENDER NOTICE

BENGALURU AIRPORT SERVICES LTD. (BASL) welcomes our existing & potential new supplier partners for annual tendering of following categories of items to be supplied to 080 Lounge @ Terminal 2 of Kepegowda International Airport for the period of 01-09-2025 till 31-08-2026. Last Day to submit the Tender Form is 30-07-2025.

Method of submission of Tender Form :

1. Intrested vendor can contact us by sending email to **basltender@baslservices.com** to get the Tender Request Form (TRF) for the interested category of item. Vendor needs to pay @INR 1000/- per Tender Application Form for each category. Payment can be done as per the QR code shared in the TRF.
2. On receipt of filled TRF & payment advise with reference UPI/UTR no., Tender Form will be mailed to the vendor by BASL.
3. Last date to submit the filled Tender Form is on or before 30-07-2025 by email only to **tendersubmission@baslservices.com.** If the Tender Form is submitted to any other mail id, then it will be considered as disqualified.
4. The Purchase Committee of BASL reserves the right to accept /reject the tenders in full or in part without assigning any reason whatsoever. BASL Purchase committee shall have the option to extend the closing date of tender if it should deem required for any or all categories.

S.NO.	CATEGORIES
1	DAIRY
2	INDIAN & IMP CHEESE
3	INDIAN VEGETABLES
4	EXOTIC VEGETABLES
5	WHOLE FRUITS
6	POULTRY
7	EGG / LIQUID EGG
8	FROZEN FOODS-COLD CUTS (VEG & NON-VEG)

S.NO.	CATEGORIES
9	ICE-CREAM
10	INDIAN GROCERIES
11	DRY-FRUITS
12	CHAAT, NAMKEEN & SWEETS
13	IMPORTED GROCERIES
14	IDLY/DOSA/VADA BATTER, F. NOODLES
15	HOUSEKEEPING & STATIONERY

Bengaluru Airport Services Limited
Administrative Block, Alpha-2, Kempegowda International Airport, Devanahalli, Bengaluru Rural, Karnataka - 560 300

ADMISSION NOTICE

BM Finance Fundas

Can NRIs open a PPF Account? Know the rules, restrictions and closure options

According to current rules, NRIs, Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) can't open a new PPF account

The Public Provident Fund (PPF) is one of the most trusted long-term savings schemes in India. The PPF offers guaranteed returns, tax benefits, and government-backed security. While it is an attractive option for Indians residing in India looking to build wealth and save on taxes, non-resident Indians (NRIs) often wonder whether they too can benefit from this scheme.

PPF is an attractive option for Indian residing in the country

Can an NRI open a PPF account?
According to current rules, NRIs, Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) cannot open a new PPF account. According to government regulations, only Indian residents are eligible to open a PPF account.

Can a PPF account be continued if the account holder becomes an NRI?
According to the SBI FAQs on PPF, "A resident who subsequently becomes NRI during the currency of maturity period prescribed under the Public Provident Fund Scheme, may continue to subscribe to the fund till its maturity on a non repatriation basis. However, these accounts cannot be extended further." This means that if a resident Indian becomes an NRI at a later date, then they can continue their PPF account till the maturity date. However, the PPF account cannot be extended after maturity.

Can I prematurely withdraw money from PPF account after becoming NRI?
The rules for premature withdrawals are quite strict for resident Indians with a PPF account. Premature closure is permitted after ve years of account opening completion under specific circumstances, but penalties apply. According to the ICICI Bank website, "As per the Public Provident Fund Scheme, 2019 issued by the Government of India, NRIs can prematurely close their PPF account only after ve years from the account opening date." The bank further adds, "Once you change your residency status to an NRI and submit a copy of your passport, visa, or income tax return to your bank or post office where your PPF account is held, you can prematurely close your account if you wish to."

What will happen to the PPF account if it continues until maturity after the account holder becomes an NRI?
Once the PPF account reaches maturity, it is mandatory to close the account of NRIs. This requires the NRI account holder to withdraw the funds. The entire maturity amount will be credited to your Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) account.

"As per official guidelines, the matured funds are non-repatriable and must be processed via the NRO account" as per DCB Bank website.

Can an NRI become a nominee in the PPF account?
Yes. Non-resident Indians shall be eligible to be nominated as a nominee, subject to the condition that payment to such nominee/s shall be on a non-repatriation basis. This means that the money received by the NRI nominee will be credited to the NRO account.

Current PPF interest rates
The PPF interest rate for the July-September 2025 is 7.1% per annum. The Indian government reviews and may change interest rates on a quarterly basis. The interest rate, set quarterly by the Government of India, ensures steady returns, while the interest earned remains tax-free.

Loan against their PPF account
NRIs can avail a loan against their PPF account from the third to the sixth nancial year of opening the account. This means that if you apply for a loan during the fth year of PPF holding, then the loan that can be availed will be a maximum of 25% of the closing PPF balance at the end of the third Financial Year (April-March).

– By Sneha Kulkarni, ET Online

I-T refunds jump 474 pc since 2013-14, issuance time improves in past 11 years

Income Tax refunds have jumped 474 per cent in the last 11 years to Rs 4.77 lakh crore in 2024-25, significantly outpacing the 274 per cent growth in gross tax collections, sources said on Sunday.

Also, there has been an 81 percent decrease in number of days it takes to issue income tax refunds decreasing from 93 days in 2013 to just 17 days in 2024.

As of 2013-14, the last year of the UPA rule, refunds issued by the Income Tax department was at Rs 83,008 crore. Whereas, at the end of 2024-25, the 11th year of the ongoing NDA rule, I-T refunds stood at Rs 4.77 lakh crore, showing a 474 per cent growth during the period.

Gross direct tax collection grew 274 per cent to Rs 27.03 lakh crore as of 2024-25, from Rs 7.22 lakh crore as of 2013-14.

There has been a 133 per cent growth in I-T returns filed since 2013. A total of 3.8 crore ITRs were filed in 2013, which has risen to 8.89 crore in 2024.

Sources said this massive increase in tax refunds and decrease in number of days to issue refunds is due to improvements in tax administration, especially with the adoption of digital infrastructure including end-to-end online filing and faceless assessment that enables faster and more accurate processing of ITRs. **–PTI**

Classic filly Fynbos wins Summer Derby

Ikram Khan
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A superb Summer Slam it proved to be for champion trainer Pesi Shroff. The top gun recorded his fourth straight Derby victory at the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) and the racing buffs at this premier racing provided the top trainer and his classy filly Fynbos a standing ovation. Fynbos, winner of the Fillies Championship Stakes was the overwhelming favourite and the `Queen' filly piloted by top `Knight' Trevor Patel produced an astounding gallop to land the Derby riches, Rs 1.48 crore offered to the winner of the Zavaray S Poonwalla Derby.

Winning the blue riband of the summer season proved to be as easy as sweeping autumn leaves from the garden path. The moment Trevor setalight the star performer at the top of the straight she produced a stunning turn of foot to overhaul the second in demand at the betting ring, Prokofiev who was shaping like a winner before Fynbos zipped past the fashionably bred colt to wear the Derby sash. It was a resplendent effort from the filly fancied most by the ladies cheer brigade and Fynbos made it a Ladies Day Out at BTC. Prokofiev followed the winner ahead of Miracle Star, while Red Bishop, stablemate of Fynbos completed the frame.

Pesi Shroff, who has made it a habit winning the Summer Derby at this centre disclosed that the filly after her facile victory in the Fillies Championship had further improved. She was enjoying the salubrious climate at this centre and she was on top of her game for the showdown at sundown and she proved me right, said Pesi Shroff adding that it is the team work which did the trick. Shroff revealed that he loves Bangalore and the garden city is his second home. "I have enjoyed good success as a jockey on this track and now I completed the Slam. It is most satisfying and more importantly the owners of the champion are delighted with the performance of the filly.

Trevor Patel who chose to pilot Fynbos in favour of her stablemate Red Bishop revealed that it was a straightforward choice. I liked and trusted the filly and she made me proud," said Trevor.

Proud owners of Fynbos and winning jockey Trevor Patel pose with the Derby winner at BTC on Sunday

Derby Day Results

1. Turf Authorities Of India Trophy- 1800M: Inspire (Arun Alagappan) Antony Raj 1; Storm Shadow (Trevor Patel) 2; Lux Aedterna (Ramswarup) 3; Knotty Scotty(Akshay Kumar) 4. WB: 2-1/4, 1L, Nk. T: 1-52.08. Tote: Rs19w; Rs 12, 13, 19p; Fc: Rs 66; Q: Rs 57; Shp: Rs 33; Thp: Rs 49: Tri: Rs 423 & 162; Exacta: Rs 1,069 & 324. TB: Arjun Mangalorkar. Fav:Inspire..

2. Indian Pattern Committee Trophy (Div-I) - 1200M: Money Bags (Jamshed Appoo) Akshay Kumar 1; Basilica (Trevor Patel) 2; Bellavita (Srinath) 3; Glorious Spectre(Dhanu Deora) 4; WB: 6, 1/2, 1L. 1-12.44. Tote: Rs 13w; Rs 11, 18, 16p; Fc: Rs 47; Q: Rs 32; Shp: 33; Thp: Rs 45; Tri: Rs 117 & 68; Ex: Rs 722 & 389. TB: Prasanna Kumar. Fav: Money Bags..

3. Mumbai Cup - 1200M: Uchchaihshravas (Vara Prasad Reddy) Neeraj Rawal 1; Credence (Ramswarup) 2; Imperial Blue (Pavan) 3; Star Glory (R.N.Darshan) 4. WB: 1/2, Shd, 1-1/4L. T: 1-12.17. Tote: Rs 144w; Rs 27, 14, 23p; Fc: Rs 573; Q: 217; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 41; Tri: Rs 3,641 & 1,652; Ex: Rs 82,607 (c/o) & 35,402. TB: Neelesh Rawal. Fav: Masato.

4. Amokbash BTC Anniversary Cup (Div-II) - 1400M Prana (Rajendran) Suraj Narredu 1; Crown Drive (Hindu Singh) 2; Meropi (Trevor Patel) 3; Knotty Charmer (Antony Raj) 4. WB: 3/4, 1/2, 2-1/2L. T: 1-24.11. Rs 32w; Rs 15, 38, 15p; Fc 261; Q: Rs 198; Shp: Rs 57; Thp: Rs 44; Tri: Rs 332 & 100; Ex: Rs 1,660 & 1,185. TB: Prasanna Kumar. Fav: Meropi.

5. Five Star Shipping Million -1600M: Baychimo (Shiven Surendranath) A.Prakash 1; Arrived (Saqlain) 2; Knight Regent (Srinath) 3; Cigar Galaxy (G.Vivek) 4; WB: Lnk, Lnk, 1/2L. T: 1.38.05. Tote: Rs 185w; Rs 36, 28, 13p; Fc: Rs 2,593; Q: Rs 766; Shp: Rs 83; Thp: Rs 41; Tri: Rs 6,251 & 2,267; Ex: Rs 15,805 & 16,934. TB: Adhirajsingh Jodha. Fav: Schoenberg.

6. Zavaray S.Poonawalla Bangalore Summer Derby - 2000M: Fynbos (K.N.Dhunjibhoy) Trevor Patel 1; Prokofiev (Suraj Narredu) 2; Miracle Star (Neeraj Rawal) 3; Red Bishop (Sandesh) 4. WB: 3-1/2, 2, 1/2L. T: 2-03.28. Tote: Rs 27w; Rs 14, 16, 80p; Fc: Rs 82; Q: Rs 55; Shp: Rs 51; Thp: Rs 195; Tri: Rs 1,633 & 1,866; Ex: Rs 11,975 & 2,979. TB: Prasanna Kumar. Fav: Big Bay.

7. Hyderabad Salver - 1400M: Promiseofthefuture (Miss Ameeta Mehra) Pavan 1; Mountain Jewel (Antony Raj) 2; Don Carlos (Akshay Kumar) 3; HIdden Dreams (Angad) 4. WB: 3-1/2, 6-3/4, 2L. T: 1-37.82. Tote: Rs 26w; Rs 13, 12, 13p; Fc: Rs 69; Q: Rs 32; Shp: Rs 31; Thp: Rs 38; Tri: Rs 115 & 55; Ex: Rs 546 & 305. TB: Irfan Ghatala. Fav: Mountain Jewel.

8. Indian Pattern Committee Trophy (Div-II) - 1400M: Flaming Sword (Aryama Sundaram) Trevor Patel 1; Slice Of Luck (Sai Kiran) 2; Eclipse Pulse (G.Vivek) 3; Feeling Good (Vinod Shinde) 4. WB: 3-3/4, 3/4, 1-1/4L. T: 1-13.06. Tote: Rs 21w; Rs 12, 14, 18p; Fc: Rs 36; Q: Rs 31; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 46; Tri: Rs 169 & 122; Ex: Rs 1,456 & 1,050. TB: S.Dominic. Fav: Flaming Sword.

Jackpot: Rs 11,898.
Runner-Up: Rs 2,151.
First Treble: Rs 20,363.
Second Treble: Rs 240.

Chai-Time

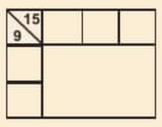
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

[(15^7 + 15^8 + 15^9) / (15^10 + 15^11 + 15^12)] = ?

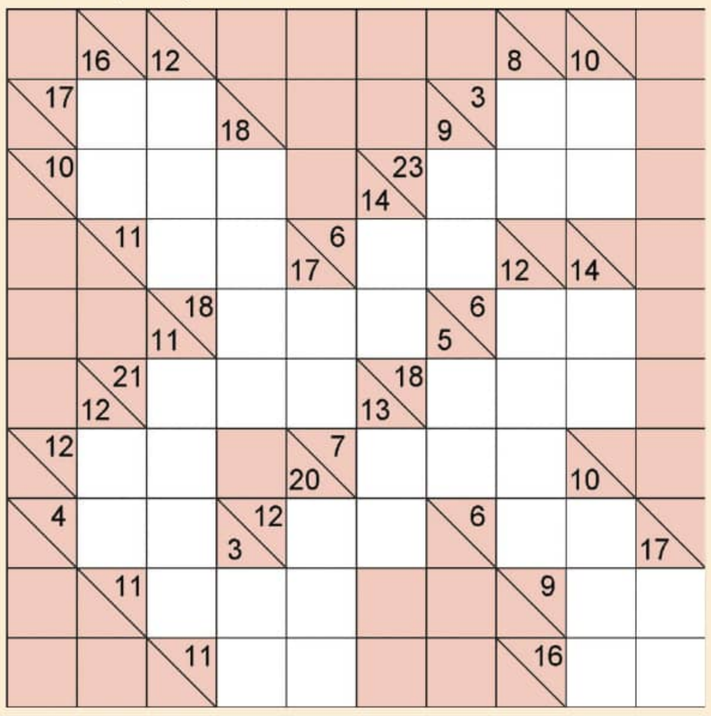
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

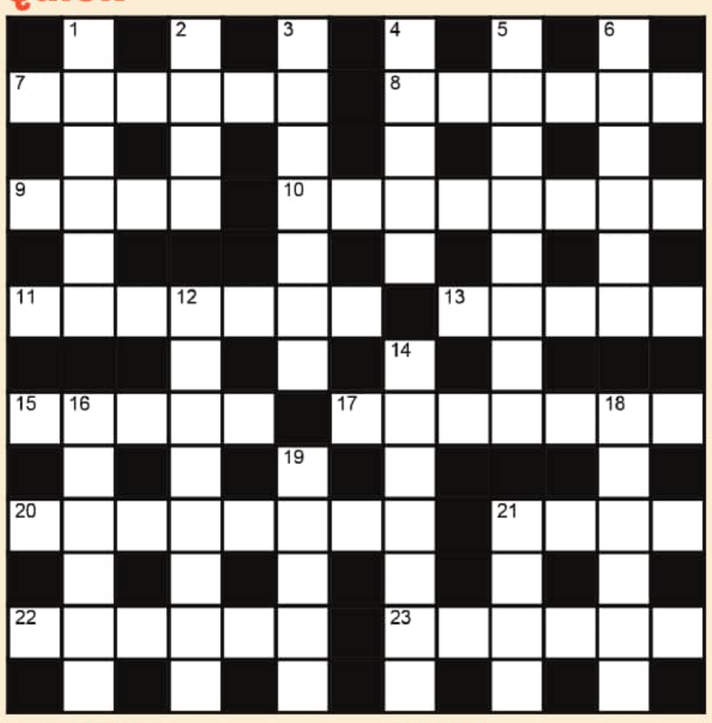
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Martial art (4,2)
8 Responsible (6)
9 Slang for rich clothes? (4)
10 William ____ Maugham : famous author of "Of Human Bondage"? (8)
11 Eats greedily but nevertheless tidily! (5,2)
13 Back and ___ : to and fro? (5)
15 Employing (5)
17 Monumental (7)
20 Salve (8)
21 Uprising (4)
22 Tap (6)
23 Ragged youngster (6)

DOWN

1 Japanese number puzzle (6)
2 ___ on : incites (4)
3 Tabla maestro Zakir ____ (7)
4 A cluster or mass (5)
5 Distinguished fighters (8)
6 First born (6)
12 The science of bodies in motion? (8)
14 Bangalore's second largest lake (7)
16 Relating to the backbone (6)
18 A stringed instrument (6)
19 Beef, ham, venison, et al. (5)
21 Partner of ruin (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: X EQUALS C

HM ZRD XNF'K MOOV N SD-FVTOV CORCAO, KSOF MOOV BDGK RFO.

Linemaro

Do you have bandaid? I scraped my knee falling for you

Mindchow

No thief can rob one of knowledge, and that's why it is the safest treasure

Joke of the day

I rented a car. I didn't really need one, I just wanted to make one less available. I wanted one businessman on the bus with no car.

Loop

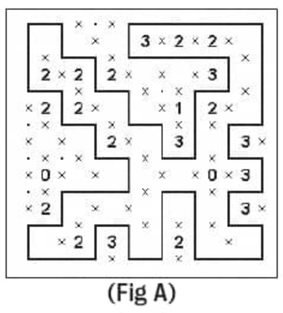
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

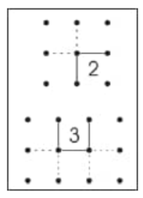
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

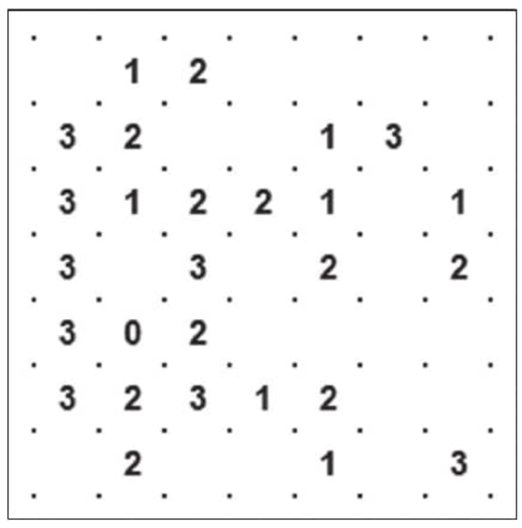
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



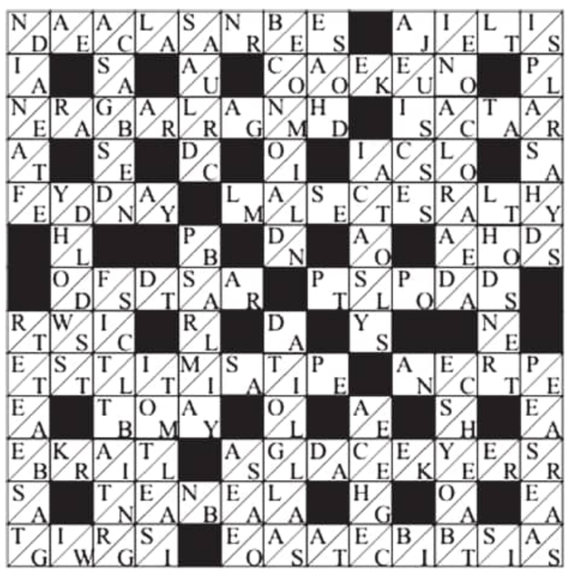
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



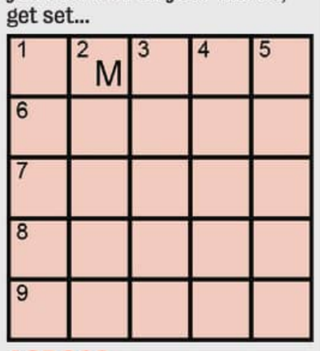
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Shams; 6 PR key;
7 Tapir; 8 Wet hi;
9 Sonde

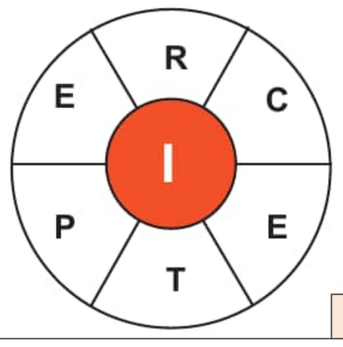
DOWN

1 Pawns; 2 He Tom;
3 Sri AR; 4 Kites;
5 Dye PH

Mensapuzzle

Which of the lower letters replaces the question mark to complete the puzzle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

13 Average; 15 Good; 17 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	4	6				2	8	
	1		2		5		4	
2								7
		8	1		2	4		
	9		5		6		2	
		5	3		9	8		
4								2
	7		4		3		6	
	8	3				1	9	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

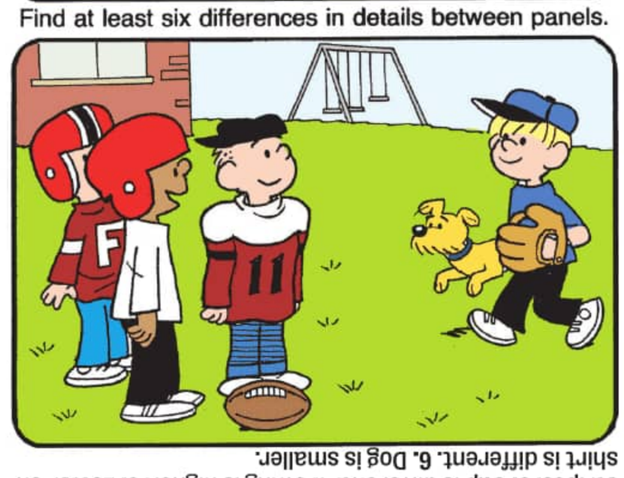
Easy = 4
4 5 5 8

Medium = 14
2 3 6 9

Hard = 18
3 3 6 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



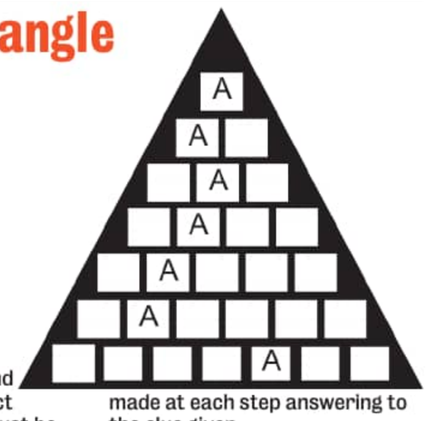
Differences: 1. Foot is different. 2. Helmet has more stripes. 3. Cap is different. 4. Swing is higher. 5. Letter on shirt is different. 6. Dog is smaller.

Riddler

What costs nothing but is worth everything, weighs nothing, but can last a lifetime, that one person can't own, but two or more can share?

Alpha triangle

1 First letter
2 A's alternative
3 Moving __
4 Conceited
5 Innocent
6 Indigene
7 Very different from the norm



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

TRUE CRIME SUPPLIES
LIMIT: 1 SKEIN OF RED YARN & 1 BOX OF PUSHPINS PER PODCASTER
02EN
BIZARRO.COM
Wayno & Piraro 4·7·25
©2025 BIZARRO STUDIOS

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

YOU GUYS LIKE A LITTLE FRIENDLY COMPETITION, RIGHT?
WHAT DID YOU DO?
NOTHING BAD! I JUST, UH... SET UP A SORT OF TRIATHLON TO PROVE THAT GIRLS ARE JUST AS GOOD AS BOYS AT STUFF.
WE'LL CRUSH THEM!
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THE CHALLENGES ARE YET!
WE'LL CRUSH THEM.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2021 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

SO HOW DO YOU THINK WE'LL DO IN THE SCHOOL BUS RODEO?
I THINK OUR CHANCES ARE PRETTY GOOD.
ROCKY JUST ENTERED THE TRANSFER PORTAL AND IS DRIVING FOR BIG WALNUT TECH!
OR AT LEAST THEY USED TO BE...
JUDGE
RODEO
4-7
© 2025 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist by Andrews McMeel Syndication
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, be mindful of your words—careless speech could lead to conflict. Stay alert to hidden enemies or conspiracies in your surroundings. Avoid risky investments and refrain from lending money, as recovery may be difficult. Engage in meditation or yoga to reduce stress and regain focus.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may struggle with negative thoughts today. Impatience and arrogance could interfere with important decision-making. Seek blessings or guidance from elders—they will help guide your professional growth. Avoid investing in non-productive assets. Lovebirds should steer clear of discussing past misunderstandings.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you're in a strong position against competitors and hidden adversaries. Financially, previously stuck money may be recovered. Your performance at work will shine. It's also a favourable day for singles and couples to make important relationship decisions, possibly related to marriage.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
A positive and productive day awaits you. Last week's challenges are behind you, allowing you to restart delayed projects. Your hard work will likely be recognised, boosting your confidence. Business profits may rise, especially for those in exports, fashion, or dairy industries.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You may feel mentally drained today, which could affect your physical health and family harmony. Arriving late to social gatherings is possible. Avoid starting new business ventures, as financial losses are likely. Lovebirds should avoid conflicts or misunderstandings today.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you're blessed by the Moon, bringing positive developments in business. You'll plan new ventures and gain support from colleagues. Recovery of previously blocked payments is likely, improving your financial flow. However, by late evening, mild depression or restlessness may affect your sleep—take time to relax.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You'll gain the upper hand over hidden enemies or competitors. Legal matters may settle in your favour. Your dedication will earn appreciation from seniors, possibly leading to new responsibilities or promotions. Singles might meet someone special.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today brings joy and a desire to upgrade your lifestyle. You may purchase creative items and spend quality time with friends or family. Investments in assets are likely. Singles may meet a promising match, while lovebirds enjoy romantic and meaningful moments.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You may be in search of inner peace today. The Moon's blessings will help you regain focus. Avoid making investments in real estate or high-value assets for now. While domestic happiness is possible, maintain humility and avoid ego clashes with your spouse. Business disputes may resolve smoothly.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Your polite demeanour will help resolve many issues today. A balanced approach to spending and saving will improve your financial stability. You may also feel inspired to purchase creative items for home improvement, adding a touch of elegance to your surroundings.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, be cautious with your words, especially at home—loose talk could disrupt family harmony. Avoid spending on unnecessary items to maintain appearances. Keep your finances secure. Health-wise, you may face minor issues related to the ears, teeth, or throat.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
A favourable day awaits you, with strong vitality and enthusiasm. You'll enjoy your work and experience harmony in domestic life. Healthy business partnerships will bring benefits. Job seekers may find good opportunities. Lovebirds should avoid arguments centred on pride or self-respect.

KIDZONE

Syed, Bengaluru

Shirshti, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
[15^7(1+15+225)+15^10(1+15+225)]
15^7(241)+15^10(241)
15^7 / 15^10 =
15^(7-10) =
15^(-3) =
1/15^3 =

QUOTE UNCODE
If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.

FAST FIVE

S	M	A	S	H
P	E	R	K	Y
A	T	R	I	P
W	H	I	T	E
N	O	S	E	D

RIDDLER
Friendship

STRIKE OUT

D	E	C	L	A	R	E	S		J	E	T	S		
A		A		U		O	A	K	E	N		P		
N	A	G	A	L	A	N	D		S	C	A	R		
T		E		D		I		I	S	O		A		
E	D	D	Y		M	A	S	T	E	R	L	Y		
	H			B		N		A		E	O	S		
T	W	I		L		A		Y			E			
E	S	T	I	M	A	T	E		A	C	R	E		
A		T	O	Y		O		A		H		A		
B	R	I	T		S	L	A	C	K	E	R	S		
A		N	A	B	A	L		H		A		E		
G	I	G	S		O	S	T	E	I	T	I	S		

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
0. Working in rows, add up the digits in each row and put the letter with this numerical value in the centre of the row.

BULL'S EYE
cite, epic, piece, pier, pierce, price, RECEIPT, recipe, recite, rice, ripe, rite, tier, tire, trice, trip, tripe

SUDOKU

3	4	6	7	9	1	2	8	5
8	1	7	2	6	5	9	4	3
2	5	9	8	3	4	6	1	7
6	3	8	1	7	2	4	5	9
7	9	4	5	8	6	3	2	1
1	2	5	3	4	9	8	7	6
4	6	1	9	5	8	7	3	2
9	7	2	4	1	3	5	6	8
5	8	3	6	2	7	1	9	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
A, An, Van, Vain, Naive, Native, Deviant.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 - 4 + 5 - 5 = 4
Medium
2 - 3 + 9 + 6 = 14
Hard
3 + 6 / 3 x 6 = 18

LOOP

KAKURO

Volume No 18, Issue No 138 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

'CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE'

A Bridge for a New Era

Sharavathi river, which originates at Ambuthirtha in Thirthahalli taluk, has the distinction of having provided electricity and creating the world-famous Jog Falls. However, it is also blamed for having submerged the lives of thousands of families. Despite this, the people of this region hold deep affection and a divine reverence for the Sharavathi river. And now, the moment has finally arrived for the island residents of the Linganamakki backwaters to be freed from their isolation. The inauguration of the historic 2.12 km long bridge is being documented in this report.

Scan this QR code to get a glimpse of the Sigandur Bridge

Tender Amount
₹473 Crore

Bridge Length
2.12 km

Bridge Width
16 meters

Footpath on Each Side
1.5 meters each

Foundation
164 Piles

Pillars on Piles
18

Highway
369E

Work Commenced
12-12-2019

Work Completed
14-07-2025

Contracting Agency
Dilip Buildcon

Constructing a bridge on land is a routine matter. However, building a sturdy bridge over water that is 50 to 150 feet deep is no easy feat.

Excluding the approach roads on either side, the bridge is 2.12 km long. Including the approach roads, the total length is 2.44 km. This is the fourth-longest cable-stayed bridge in the country and the longest inland cable bridge in Karnataka.

The bridge's weight is supported by a total of 18 pillars, built on a pile foundation, and two support arches at either end. A cable-stayed bridge offers greater rigidity and security than a conventional suspension bridge.

The bridge was constructed using 604 segments, each 12 meters wide. The bridge's width accommodates two vehicle lanes and pedestrian walkways on both sides, and it has been built to the standards of national highways. In the deepest sections, where the water is up to 150 feet deep, the bridge's pillars were constructed using a pile foundation..

Pile foundations are used when the surface soil is very weak, for tall multi-story buildings, towers, in water-filled areas or wetlands.

A pile is a long, slender timber (like a foundational post) that is a pillar-like structure made of concrete and steel. It is drilled deep into the ground. Pile foundations have been used for the pillars of the Sigandur bridge as well.

Bridge inauguration
Monday, July 14, 2025
Event Venue
Nehru Maidan, Sagar
12:00 PM

India's Largest Cable-Stayed Bridges

The bridge over the Arabian Sea between Bandra and Worli in Mumbai, 5.6 km.

The Atal Setu bridge built over the Mandovi river in Goa, 5.1 km.

The Sudarshan Setu bridge connects Dwarka city to Dwarka island in Gujarat, 2.32 km.

The Sigandur bridge built over the Sharavathi backwaters between Ambaragodlu and Kalasavalli, 2.12 km.

The Vidyasagar Setu bridge built over the Hooghly river in Kolkata, 823 m.

Yediyurappa's Determination + Raghavendra's Resolve = The Sigandur Bridge

Shivamogga, the gateway to Malenadu, the strong developmental strides of former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and Member of Parliament B.Y. Raghavendra is continuing to gain momentum.

As Deputy Chief Minister and Chief Minister, B.S. Yediyurappa worked day and night for the comprehensive development of Shivamogga. It took the combined will of B.S. Yediyurappa and B.Y. Raghavendra to finally fulfill the decades-long demand for a bridge from the island residents of the Sharavati backwaters' Karuru and Bharangi hoblis.

The Bridge Challenge

Many political parties and leaders promised to build the bridge. However, those promises never saw the light of the day. But Yediyurappa and Raghavendra took it as a challenge. When they realized that it was not feasible to build such a massive bridge with state funds, they took steps to implement it through the central government aid.

A Silent Struggle for the Bridge

The people of the backwater region had been fighting for decades for a bridge between Ambaragodlu and Kalasavalli. When Yediyurappa and Raghavendra set out to fulfill their demand, they faced many obstacles. While the people fought on the streets, Yediyurappa and Raghavendra worked tirelessly, traveling between Bengaluru, Delhi, and various central and state government offices.

The bridge is a path that leads from village to city, from faith to security, and from instability to stability. On behalf of the public of the constituency and personally, I extend my gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, the then Union Minister for Forest and Environment Harsh Vardhan, former CM B.S. Yediyurappa, and all the officials who joined hands in the project's sanction and implementation.

■ **B.Y. Raghavendra,** MP, Shivamogga

A Regular Road Becomes a Highway

Securing central funds for the bridge was not an easy task. They realized that funds could be brought only if the road in the area was declared a National Highway. In 2014, after becoming a Lok Sabha member, a proposal was submitted to the Union Ministry of Transport to upgrade the Byndoor-Ranebennur road. Yediyurappa, leveraging his influence on Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, succeeded in getting the 198.5 km regular road between Byndoor and Ranebennur declared a National Highway (NH 766C). Following this, a request was submitted for the bridge construction.

Union Minister Gadkari responded to the request and sanctioned ₹603 crore in the 2017-18 action plan, instructing the state government to submit a detailed project report. Even though the state government submitted the report in May 2017, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways rejected the proposal, stating that the Sigandur route did not fall under the scope of a National Highway. However, Yediyurappa convinced the Minister of the bridge's importance and also showed a path to release the funds by declaring the Sagar-Sigandur-Marukutaka road a National Highway. Responding to Yediyurappa's persistence, another regular road, just 68 km long, was declared a National Highway (NH 369E) in 2018. ■